

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 12964 201159Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

DPW-01 IO-13 AID-20 RSR-01 /118 W

----- 129942

R 201050Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5837

INFO CINCPAC

USSAG NKP

13TH ADVON UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12964

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, PINS

SUBJ: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON U.S. PRESENCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN AUGUST 20 BANGKOK POST
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS." BEGIN TEXT:

IF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
THAILAND REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS
SEEMS SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS THE REASONS FOR SUCH
AMBIGUITY ARE WELL FORMED. THE SECURITY OF INDOCHINA
DEMANDS THAT CERTAIN FACTS AND FIGURES REMAIN SECRET
(AS SECRET AS ANYTHING CAN BE IN ASIA), AND THE
SECURITY OF THAILAND DEMANDS THAT AMERICA'S WITHDRAWAL
REMAIN FLEXIBLE AND SENSITIVE TO THE FACTS OF THE TIME.

SO VAGUENESS ITSELF IS NO CONDEMNATION OF THIS
NEWEST PROCLAMATION BY PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN
REGARDING THE BASES. BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO ASK A
MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION: ARE THE AMERICANS ACTUALLY
PREPARED TO STAY IN THAILAND LONG ENOUGH TO HELP PROTECT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 12964 201159Z

THIS COUNTRY?

SUCH A QUESTION IS HARDLY POPULAR. IT IS EASIER
TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH,
THAT PROBLEMS REGARDING THE ECONOMY AND NATIONAL
SOVEREIGNTY HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED BY THEIR PRESENCE.
BUT POPULAR OR NOT, THE FACT OF THE MATTER, THE
REALPOLITIK OF THE MATTER IS THAT THAILAND NEEDS UNITED
STATES FORCES, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, FOR OUR OWN SECURITY.

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE LOVE AMERICA, THAT THAT
WE LOVE OR EVEN APPROVE OF AMERICAN POLICY. IN MANY
WAYS, THAILAND AS A SOVEREIGN STATE FINDS UNITED STATES
POLICY NEBULOUS AND SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN TOWARDS ITS
STAGNANT ALLIES.

BUT WITHIN THE REALM OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS,
WE HAVE CLOSELY SIDED WITH THE UNITED STATES SINCE
1963. WE HAVE GIVEN OUR BASES FOR AMERICA TO BOMB
COMMUNIST FORCES IN INDOCHINA. WE HAVE USED BANGKOK
AS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR AMERICA'S MILITARY HEADQUARTERS
FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE HAVE USED OUR JUNGLES FOR EXPERIMENTAL
RESEARCH, AND WE HAVE USED OUR CAPITAL AS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR
THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN TREATY ORGANIZATION--AN ORGANIZATION WHICH
HAS NEVER BEEN CALLED TO FIGHT A WAR AND WHICH HAS BECOME
ALMOST MORIBUND.

WITH ALL THAT WE HAVE SACRIFICED FOR THE UNITED
STATES--GRANTED WITH A SIZEABLE AMOUNT OF PROFIT FOR
THAILAND ECONOMICALLY--WE WILL DEMAND A CERTAIN RIGHT TO
REQUEST OUR AMERICAN ALLIES TO UNDERSTAND OUR NEEDS IN
RELATION TO OUR SOMETIMES HOSTILE NEIGHBOURS.

IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE UNITED STATES WISHES
TO WITHDRAW FROM THEIR BATTLE IN INDOCHINA. AND IT IS
UNDERSTANDABLE THAT CERTAIN PROTECTIONIST ELEMENTS
IN CONGRESS WOULD WISH TO WITHDRAW TO "FORTRESS AMERICA."
BUT WE ARE NOT INDOCHINA. WE HAVE SIDED WITH THE UNITED
STATES AND WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO BE ABANDONED BY THE
UNITED STATES DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 12964 201159Z

THE UNITED STATES HAS THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW TROOPS,
EQUIPMENT, BUSINESS OR EVEN ITS EMBASSY IF IT SO WISHES.
BUT TO ABANDON THE ONE COUNTRY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHICH
HAS HELPED THEM WOULD BE A FOOLISH, AMORAL AND TRAGIC
THING TO DO. END TEXT.
UNGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SECURITY, TROOP CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO12964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730829/aaaaausu.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Oct-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON U.S. PRESENCE CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PINS, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005